

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method for electronically identifying a coded part includes the step of locating a machine-readable area relief pattern formed with a surface of the part. The relief pattern includes separate and distinct code elements extending along both x and y axes. Each code element has a profile dimension extending along a z-axis relative to a native surface of the part. A region of interest containing the area relief pattern is then measured along the x, y, and z axes. The area relief pattern is then extracted from the measured region of interest. The area relief pattern is then decoded to extract part information encoded in the relief pattern.